

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/019,297

Examiner

Mr. Terry K. Cecil

Applicant(s)

TAKAGI ET AL.

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment of 11-2-2006 and the telephonic interview of 1-16-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 15-27 respectively renumbered upon allowance as claims 1-25.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1-16-2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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Note: Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are allowed and have been respectively renumbered upon allowance as claims 1-25. Since generic claim 1 is allowed, all species are allowed (withdrawn claims 3, 17-19, and 21-22 are rejoined with the elected invention and have been examined).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with S. Adrian on 1-16-2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 1, line 3, "the tip" has been replaced with —a tip—.
- Claim 1, line 35 has been amended as follows: flow path ~~from~~ between said flow path switching valve ~~to~~ and said delivery flow switching valve; and
- Claim 18, line 15, "a flow path" has been replaced with —said flow path—
- Claim 19, line 14, "a flow path" has been replaced with —said flow path—
- Claim 20, line 11, "a flow path" has been replaced with —said flow path—
- The abstract has been replaced (to be a single paragraph and less than 150 words) as on the attached sheet.

Required Drawing Changes

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: the drawing sheet will be properly numbered and the drawings will NOT contain any foreign words. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- The closest cited art— Burchard—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the germicidal ceramic and/or sintered magnetic body (i.e. the germicidal ceramic body or the sintered magnetic body or the germicidal ceramic sintered magnetic body) being installed in the flow path between the valves—in combination with all the limitations of the shower head of claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Wanda Walker, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571) 272-1151 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

TKC
January 16, 2007

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shower head for purifying water includes a filter cartridge positioned within in a holding part, a purified water flow path passing through a purification material and a raw water flow path not passing through the purification material. A flow path switching valve switching between the purified and raw water flow paths is incorporated in a head part. A delivery flow switching valve positioned downstream of the flow path switching valve switches between a straight delivery port and a shower delivery port. The valves are controlled independently of each other. A germicidal ceramic and/or sintered magnetic body is installed in the flow path between the valves.